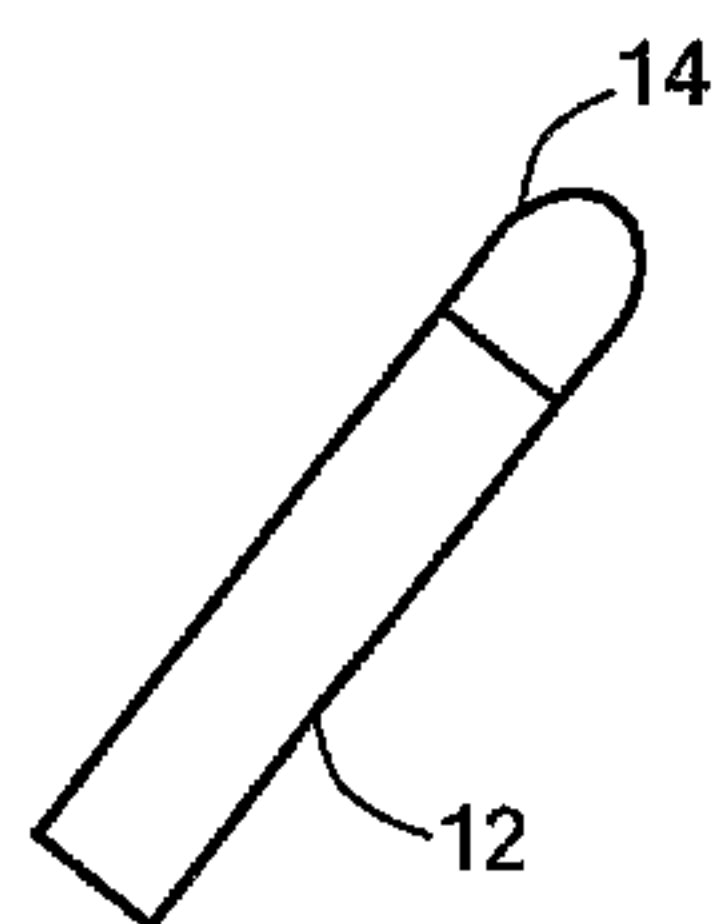
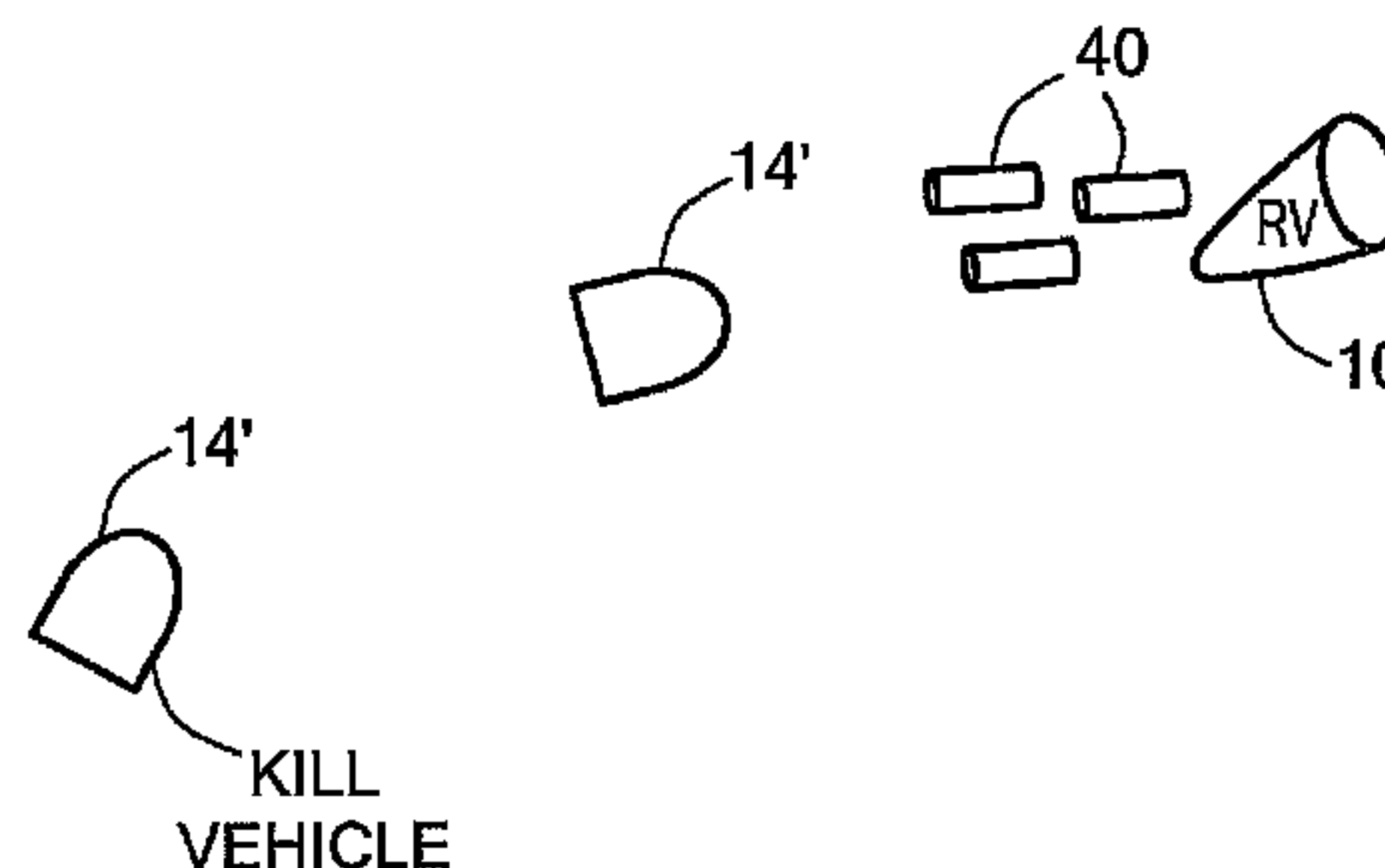




(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2003/08/06
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2004/07/22
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2008/07/15
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2005/02/24
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 2003/024532
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2004/061384
(30) Priorités/Priorities: 2002/08/29 (US60/406,828);
2003/03/10 (US10/385,319)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *F42B 12/60* (2006.01),
F42B 12/04 (2006.01), *F42B 12/32* (2006.01),
F42C 19/095 (2006.01)
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(54) Titre : CHARGE A BARRE A ENERGIE CINETIQUE AVEC CHARGE EXPLOSIVE PAR ALLUMAGE ISOTROPE DE
PENETRATEURS
(54) Title: KINETIC ENERGY ROD WARHEAD WITH IMPLoding CHARGE FOR ISOTROPIC FIRING OF THE
PENETRATORS



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charges for isotropic firing of penetrators including a hull, a core in the hull including a plurality of individual penetrators, explosive charge sections in the hull about the core, and a detonator for each explosive charge section arranged to implode the core and isotropically deploy the penetrators.



(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/061384 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **F42B 12/60**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/024532

(22) International Filing Date: 6 August 2003 (06.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/406,828 29 August 2002 (29.08.2002) US
10/385,319 10 March 2003 (10.03.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

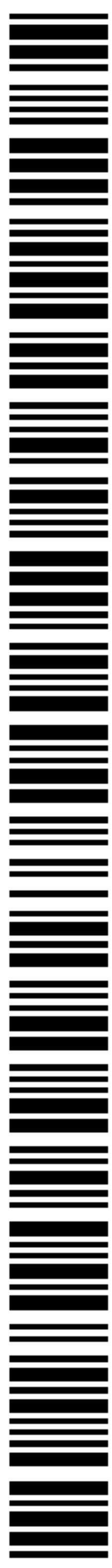
- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
4 November 2004

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: KINETIC ENERGY ROD WARHEAD WITH IMPLoding CHARGE FOR ISOTROPIC FIRING OF THE PENE-
TRATORS

(57) Abstract: A kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charges for isotropic firing of penetrators including a hull, a core in
the hull including a plurality of individual penetrators, explosive charge sections in the hull about the core, and a detonator for each
explosive charge section arranged to implode the core and isotropically deploy the penetrators.



WO 2004/061384 A3

KINETIC ENERGY ROD WARHEAD WITH IMPLoding CHARGE FOR ISOTROPIC FIRING OF THE PENETRATORS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to improvements in kinetic energy rod warheads.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Destroying missiles, aircraft, re-entry vehicles and other targets falls into three primary classifications: "hit-to-kill" vehicles, blast fragmentation warheads, and kinetic energy rod warheads.

"Hit-to-kill" vehicles are typically launched into a position proximate a re-entry vehicle or other target via a missile such as the Patriot, Trident or MX missile. The kill vehicle is navigable and designed to strike the re-entry vehicle to render it inoperable. Countermeasures, however, can be used to avoid the "hit-to-kill" vehicle. Moreover, biological warfare bomblets and chemical warfare submunition payloads are carried by some threats and one or more of these bomblets or chemical submunition payloads can survive and cause heavy casualties even if the "hit-to-kill" vehicle accurately strikes the target.

Blast fragmentation type warheads are designed to be carried by existing

missiles. Blast fragmentation type warheads, unlike “hit-to-kill” vehicles, are not navigable. Instead, when the missile carrier reaches a position close to an enemy missile or other target, a pre-made band of metal on the warhead is detonated and the pieces of metal are accelerated with high velocity and strike the target. The fragments, however, are not always effective at destroying the target and, again, biological bomblets and/or chemical submunition payloads survive and cause heavy casualties.

The textbook by the inventor hereof, R. Lloyd, “Conventional Warhead Systems Physics and Engineering Design,” Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA) Book Series, Vol. 179, ISBN 1-56347-255-4, 1998, provides additional details concerning “hit-to-kill” vehicles and blast fragmentation type warheads. Chapter 5 of that textbook, proposes a kinetic energy rod warhead.

The two primary advantages of a kinetic energy rod warheads is that 1) it does not rely on precise navigation as is the case with “hit-to-kill” vehicles and 2) it provides better penetration then blast fragmentation type warheads.

The primary components associated with a conventional kinetic energy rod warhead is a hull, or a housing, a single projectile core or bay in the hull including a number of individual lengthy cylindrical projectiles, and an explosive charge in the center of the projectiles. When the explosive charge is detonated, the projectiles are deployed to impinge upon a re-entry vehicle, missile or other target hopefully destroying it and all the submunitions such as biological warfare bomblets or chemical warfare submunition payloads it carries.

A center core explosive charge in conjunction with an aimable rod warhead may result in a complex design, may occupy an inordinate amount of space, and add

mass to the warhead.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide an aimable kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charges for isotropic firing of penetrators.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a higher lethality kinetic energy rod warhead.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a kinetic energy warhead which deploys the penetrators in a circular or elliptical isotropic pattern to effectively destroy missiles, aircraft, re-entry vehicles and other targets.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy warhead which eliminates the need for a center core charge explosive.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy warhead which reduces the mass of the warhead.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy warhead which simplifies the design of the warhead.

It is a further object of this invention to provides such a kinetic energy warhead which reduces the amount of space required by the explosive charges.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy rod warhead with penetrators shapes which have a better chance of penetrating a target.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy rod warhead with penetrators shapes which can be packed more densely.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy rod warhead which has a better chance of destroying all of the bomblets and chemical

submunition payloads of a target to thereby better prevent casualties.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a kinetic energy rod warhead which provides an isotropic pattern of penetrators which make the warhead appear larger than it actually is.

This invention results from the realization that isotropic firing of the projectiles of a kinetic energy rod warhead can be affected by the inclusion of a core in the hull which includes a plurality of individual penetrators therein, explosive charge sections in the hull located about the core, and a detonator for each of the explosive charge sections which are detonated to implode the core creating shock waves which interact with the center of the core and result in rebound energy that deploys the penetrators in an isotropic elliptical or circular pattern about the axis of the warhead.

This invention features an isotropic kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charge for isotropic firing of penetrators including a hull, a core in the hull, including a plurality of individual penetrators, explosive charge sections in the hull about the core, and a detonator for each explosive charge section arranged to implode the core and isotropically deploy the penetrators.

In one preferred embodiment, the kinetic energy rod warhead may include a shield between each explosive charge section. The isotropically deployed penetrators may form a circular isotropic pattern. The isotropically deployed penetrators may form an elliptical pattern. The penetrators may be tungsten rods. The hull may be the skin of a missile. The penetrators may be lengthy metallic members. The penetrators may be made of tungsten, titanium, or tantalum. The penetrators may have a cylindrical cross section. The penetrators may have a non-cylindrical cross section. The penetrators may have a star-shape cross section, a cruciform cross section, flat ends, a

non-flat nose, a pointed nose, or a wedge-shaped nose. The detonators may be chip slappers.

This invention also features a method of isotropically deploying the penetrators of a kinetic energy rod warhead, the method including the steps of: disposing a plurality of individual penetrators in the core of a hull surrounded by explosive charge section, and detonating the charge sections to implode the core and isotropically deploy the penetrators.

In one preferred embodiment, all the charged sections may be detonated simultaneously to create a circular spray pattern of penetrators. In other designs, a select subset of opposing charge sections may be detonated simultaneously to create an elliptical spray pattern of penetrators.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects, features and advantages will occur to those skilled in the art from the following description of a preferred embodiment and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is schematic view showing the typical deployment of a "hit-to-kill" vehicle in accordance with the prior art;

Fig. 2 is schematic view showing the typical deployment of a prior art blast fragmentation type warhead;

Fig. 3 is schematic view showing the deployment of a theoretical kinetic energy rod warhead system;

Fig. 4A is a schematic cross-section view of one embodiment of the kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charges for isotropically firing the projectiles of

the subject invention;

Fig. 4B is a schematic cross-sectional view showing the simultaneous detonation of explosive sections of the warhead shown in Fig. 4A and the resulting shockwaves produced in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 4C is a schematic cross-sectional view of the kinetic energy rod warhead shown in Fig. 4B showing the circular isotropic pattern of rods produced in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 5A is a schematic cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charges for isotropically firing the projectiles of this invention;

Fig. 5B is a schematic cross-sectional view showing selective deployment of various explosive charge sections of the warhead shown in Fig. 5A in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 5C is a schematic cross-sectional view showing the isotropic elliptical pattern of rods produced by the selective deployment of detonators shown in Fig. 6B;

Figs. 6-13 are three-dimensional views showing different projectile shapes useful in the kinetic energy rod warhead of the subject invention; and

Fig. 14 is a flow chart showing the primary steps of the method of isotropically deploying the penetrators of the kinetic energy rod warhead of this invention.

DISCLOSURE OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Aside from the preferred embodiment or embodiments disclosed below, this invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or being carried out in various ways. Thus, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its

application to the details of construction and the arrangements of components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings.

As discussed in the Background section above, “hit-to-kill” vehicles are typically launched into a position proximate a re-entry vehicle 10, Fig. 1 or other target via a missile 12. “Hit-to-kill” vehicle 14 is navigable and designed to strike re-entry vehicle 10 to render it inoperable. Countermeasures, however, can be used to avoid the kill vehicle. Vector 16 shows kill vehicle 14 missing re-entry vehicle 10. Moreover, biological bomblets and chemical submunition payloads 18 are carried by some threats and one or more of these bomblets or chemical submunition payloads 18 can survive, as shown at 20, and cause heavy casualties even if kill vehicle 14 does accurately strike target 10.

Turning to Fig. 2, blast fragmentation type warhead 32 is designed to be carried by missile 30. When the missile reaches a position close to an enemy re-entry vehicle (RV), missile, or other target 36, a pre-made band of metal or fragments on the warhead is detonated and the pieces of metal 34 strike target 36. The fragments, however, are not always effective at destroying the submunition target and, again, biological bomblets and/or chemical submunition payloads can survive and cause heavy casualties.

The textbook by the inventor hereof, R. Lloyd, “Conventional Warhead Systems Physics and Engineering Design,” Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA) Book Series, Vol. 179, ISBN 1-56347-255-4, 1998, provides additional details concerning “hit-to-kill” vehicles and blast fragmentation type warheads. Chapter 5 of that textbook proposes a kinetic energy rod warhead.

One idea behind the subject invention is a warhead designed to deploy penetrators (rods or projectiles) in the trajectory path of a target by detonating various combinations of explosive charge sections located about the hull of a kinetic energy warhead to create an implosion effect which acts on the core section of the warhead with penetrators therein. The resulting rebound energy created from the implosion effect on the core section ejects the penetrators in an isotropic pattern about the axis of the warhead. The shape of the isotropic pattern of penetrators is determined by selecting which explosive charge sections are simultaneously detonated.

In one embodiment of this invention, kinetic energy warhead with imploding charges for isotropically firing projectiles 100, Fig. 4A includes hull 102 and core 104 therein. Core 104 includes a plurality of individual penetrators 106, such as tungsten, titanium, or tantalum rods, and the like, which are typically individual lengthy cylindrical projectiles. Warhead 100 further includes explosive charge sections 108-122 surrounding core 104. Detonators 124-138 (typically chip slapper type detonators) are used to initiate explosive charge sections 108-122, respectively; e.g., detonator 124 initiates explosive charge section 108; detonator 126 initiates explosive charge section 110. Detonators 124-138 and explosive charge sections 108-122 are arranged to implode on core 104 and isotropically deploy the plurality of individual penetrators 106. In one design, the simultaneous firing of detonators 124-138 initiates explosive charge sections 108-122, respectively, and produces an implosion effect, e.g. shock waves, on core 104, as shown by arrows 140-154, Fig 4B. The imploding shock waves travel through the plurality of penetrators 106 within core 104 and reflects back after intersecting with center 159 of core 104, thus generating rebound energy, as indicated by arrows 162, 164, and 166, Fig. 4C. The energy of the rebound is sufficient to eject

plurality of penetrators 106 about the warhead 100 in circular isotropic pattern 170 of penetrators about warhead 100. Once warhead 100 is in position, a circular isotropic pattern 170 of penetrators is deployed which effectively destroys enemy missiles, aircraft, RVs, biological warfare bomblets and chemical bomblets, as well as any other enemy target. A unique feature of circular isotropic pattern 170 of penetrators is that missile or warhead 100 appears larger than it actually is. Warhead 100 (e.g., an anti-ballistic missile) appears larger relative to the target because the projectiles (penetrators 106) are deployed in a 360 degree pattern (isotropic pattern 170) about the axis of warhead 100. In effect, the diameter of warhead 100 has increased by the dense radius of the spray pattern (isotropic pattern 170). These highly dense projectiles obtain high overall lethality when warhead 100 falls short of hitting the sweet spot of the payload.

As shown in Fig. 4A, kinetic energy rod warhead 100 includes explosive charge sections 124-138 in hull 102 about core 104 with penetrators 106 therein. Shields, such as shield 180, separate explosive charge sections (e.g., shield 180 separates explosive charge sections 108 and 110). Shield 180 may be made of a composite material, such as a steel core sandwiched between inner and outer lexan layers to prevent the detonation of one explosive charge section from detonating the other explosive charge sections.

In the prior art, isotropic deployment was possible but only with an explosive charge disposed in the center of a single set of projectiles. That design, in some cases, was somewhat complex, resulted in the explosive charge occupying an inordinate amount of space adding mass to the kinetic energy rod warhead and also resulted in less projectiles and hence less lethality. This prior art design in conjunction with an

aimable kinetic energy device also requires added detonators and logic.

A unique feature of warhead 100 with explosive charge sections 124-138 located about core 104 is that the need for a complex center core explosive charge is eliminated, hence simplifying the design of warhead 100. The overall mass of warhead 100 is thus reduced as is the amount of space required by the explosive charge sections, hence providing more space for projectiles 106 which increases the lethality of warhead 100.

In some engagements that have a very small miss distance the predictor fuze may not know the exact location to deploy the rods (e.g., projectiles). In accordance with the subject invention, warhead 100 is designed to implode or pinch the rods (projectiles 106) away from warhead 100 without the need to add additional hardware to achieve such deployment.

In another embodiment of the subject invention, kinetic energy rod warhead 100', Fig. 5A, where like parts have been given like numbers, utilizes specific combinations of the simultaneous firing of various combinations of detonators 124-138 and their corresponding explosive charge sections 108-122 to produce a unique elliptical, or other shaped, isotropic pattern of penetrators 106. In one example, detonators 124, 126, 132, and 134 are simultaneously detonated detonating explosive charge sections 108, 110, 116, and 118, respectively. Similar to the above, shock waves, indicated by arrows 202, 204, 206, and 208, Fig. 5B, travel through the plurality of penetrators 106 within core 104 and reflect back generating a rebound energy, as shown by arrows 220, 222, 224, and 226, Fig. 5C. The rebound energy produced ejects plurality of penetrators 106 in isotropic elliptical pattern 228. The results of the elliptical pattern 228 is that a significant overlay of penetrators 106 is

produced over an enemy RV, or other enemy target compared to the circular spray pattern, as previously discussed above.

Thus far, the penetrators (projectiles) have been shown to be lengthy cylindrical members but that is not a limitation of the subject invention. Non-cylindrical cross section penetrators (projectiles) may provide improved strength, weight, packaging efficiency, penetrability, and/or lethality. For example, penetrator 106', Fig. 6 which includes lengthy pointed sections 312 as compared to short cylindrical cross sectional penetrators 106'', Fig. 7. Penetrator 106''', Fig. 8 includes longer pointed section 314 compared to cylindrical cross section projectile 106^{iv}, Fig. 9. Fig. 10 shows penetrators 106^v with even longer pointed section 314 compared to lengthy cylindrical cross section penetrators 106^{vi}, Fig. 11.

Fig. 12, in contrast, shows penetrators 106^{vii} with a star shaped cross section and having pointed ends as shown while penetrators 106^{viii} have petals 316 designed such that many more penetrators can be packaged in the same space occupied by fewer cylindrical cross section penetrators 318 shown in phantom.

The penetrator (projectile) shapes disclosed herein have a better chance of penetrating a target and can be packed more densely. As such, the kinetic energy rod warhead of this invention has a better chance of destroying all of the bomblets and chemical submunition payloads of a target to thereby better prevent casualties.

The result of the kinetic energy rod warhead 100 with isotropically deployable projectiles, but lacking a large center explosive core, is a kinetic energy rod warhead design which is extremely versatile as discussed above. Further details concerning kinetic energy rod warheads and penetrators (projectiles) are disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent Serial No. 6,598,534 filed August 23, 2001; U.S. Patent

No. 6,779,462 filed June 2, 2002; Patent No. 7,040,235 filed November 21, 2002 entitled KINETIC ENERGY ROD WARHEAD WITH ISOTROPIC FIRING OF THE PROJECTILES; and Patent No. 6,931,994 filed November 21, 2002 entitled TANDEM WARHEAD.

The method of isotropically deploying the penetrators of a kinetic energy warhead of this invention includes the steps of: disposing a plurality of individual penetrators 106, Fig. 4A in core 104 of hull 102 surrounded by explosive charge sections 108-122, step 300, Fig. 14; and detonating charge sections 108-122, Fig. 4A to implode core 104 and isotropically deploy penetrators 106, Fig. 4C, step 302, Fig. 14. In one design, all the charge sections are detonated simultaneously, e.g., explosive charge sections 108-122, Fig. 4A to create a circular spray pattern 170, Fig. 4C. In other designs, a select subset of opposing charge sections, for example charge sections 108, 110, 112, and 114, Fig. 5A are detonated simultaneously to create an elliptical spray pattern 228, Fig. 5C.

Although specific features of the invention are shown in some drawings and not in others, this is for convenience only as each feature may be combined with any or all of the other features in accordance with the invention. The words “including”, “comprising”, “having”, and “with” as used herein are to be interpreted broadly and comprehensively and are not limited to any physical interconnection. Moreover, any embodiments disclosed in the subject application are not to be taken as the only possible embodiments.

Other embodiments will occur to those skilled in the art and are within the following claims:

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A kinetic energy rod warhead with imploding charge for isotropic firing of penetrators comprising:

a hull;

a core in the hull including a plurality of individual penetrators;

explosive charge sections in the hull about the core; and

a detonator for each explosive charge section arranged to implode on the core and isotropically deploy the penetrators;

said detonators simultaneously detonated in operation to trigger all or select explosive charge sections to implode on the core for isotropically deploying the penetrators.

2. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 further including a shield between each explosive charge section.

3. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the isotropically deployed penetrators form a circular isotropic pattern.

4. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the isotropically deployed penetrators form an elliptical pattern.

5. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators are tungsten rods.

6. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the hull is the skin

of a missile.

7. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators are lengthy metallic members.

8. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators are made of tungsten.

9. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a cylindrical cross section.

10. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a non-cylindrical cross section.

11. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a star-shape cross section.

12. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a cruciform cross section.

13. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have flat ends.

14. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a non-flat nose.

15. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a pointed nose.

16. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the penetrators have a wedge-shaped nose.

17. The kinetic energy rod warhead of claim 1 in which the detonators are chip slappers.

18. A method of isotropically deploying the penetrators of a kinetic energy rod warhead, the method comprising:

disposing a plurality of individual penetrators in the core of a hull surrounded by explosive charge section; and

detonating the charge sections to implode the core and isotropically deploy the penetrators.

19. The method of claim 18 in which all the charged sections are detonated simultaneously to create a circular spray pattern of penetrators.

20. The method of claim 19 in which a select subset of opposing charge sections are detonated simultaneously to create an elliptical spray pattern of penetrators.

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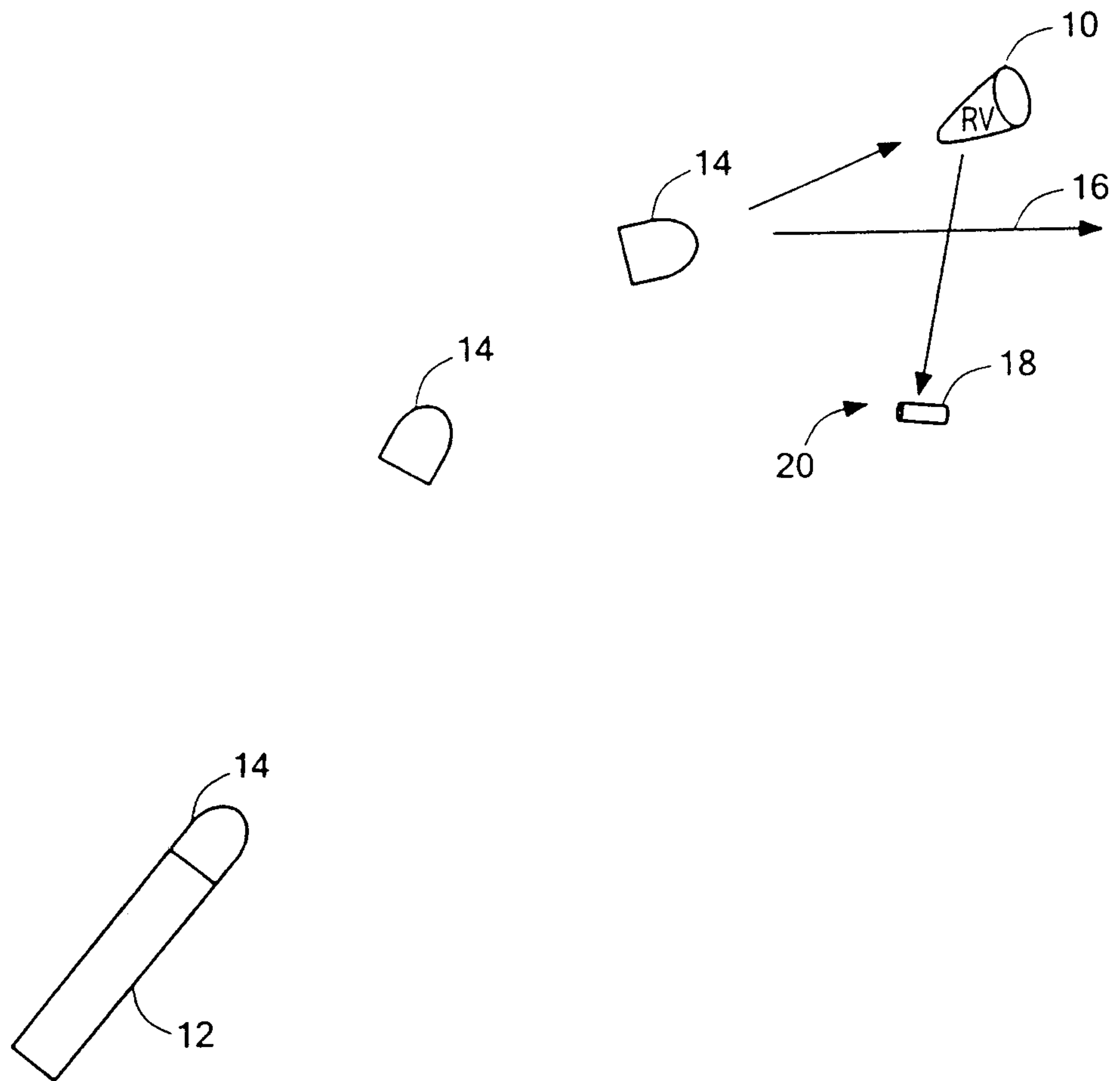


FIG. 1

PRIOR ART

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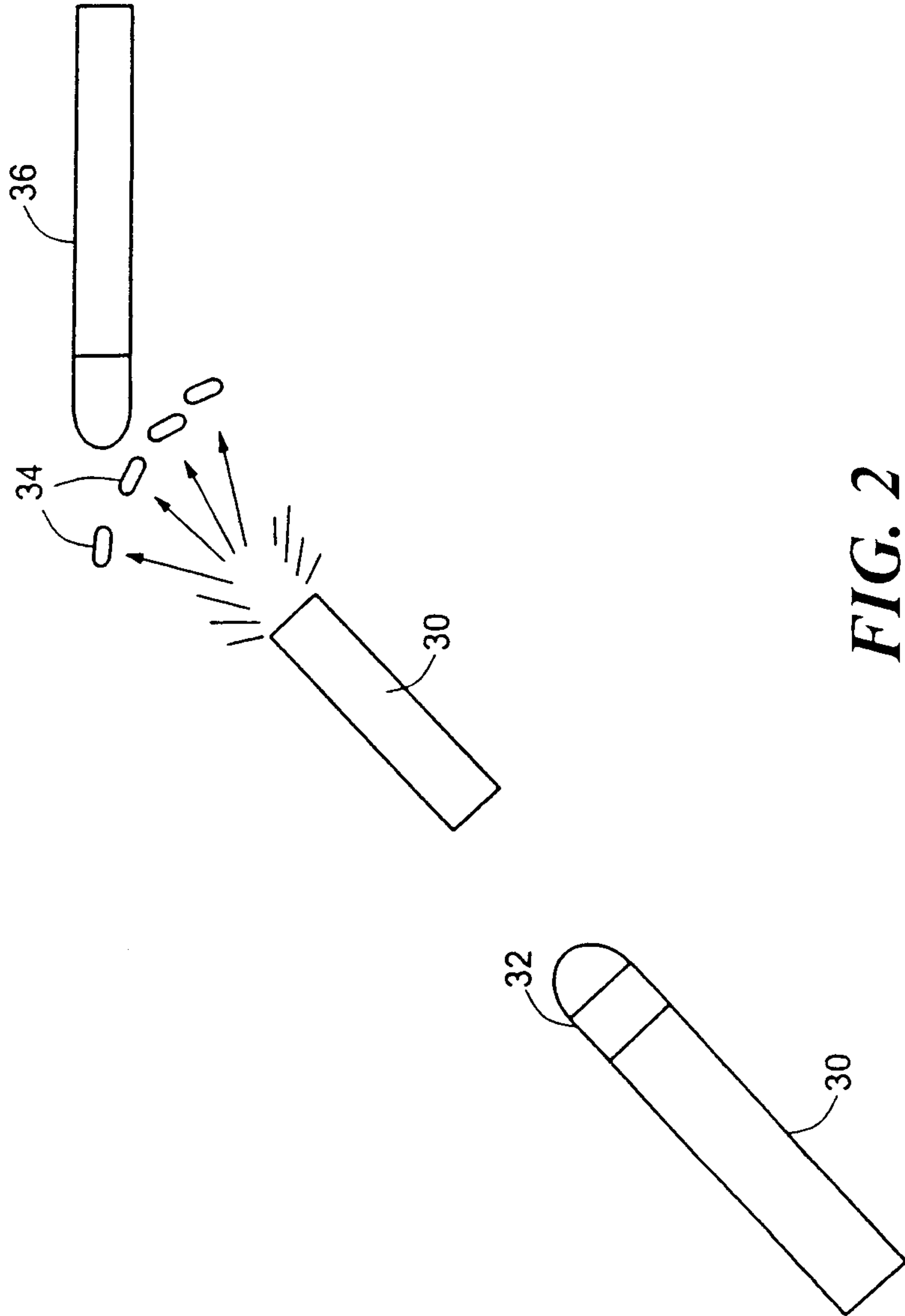
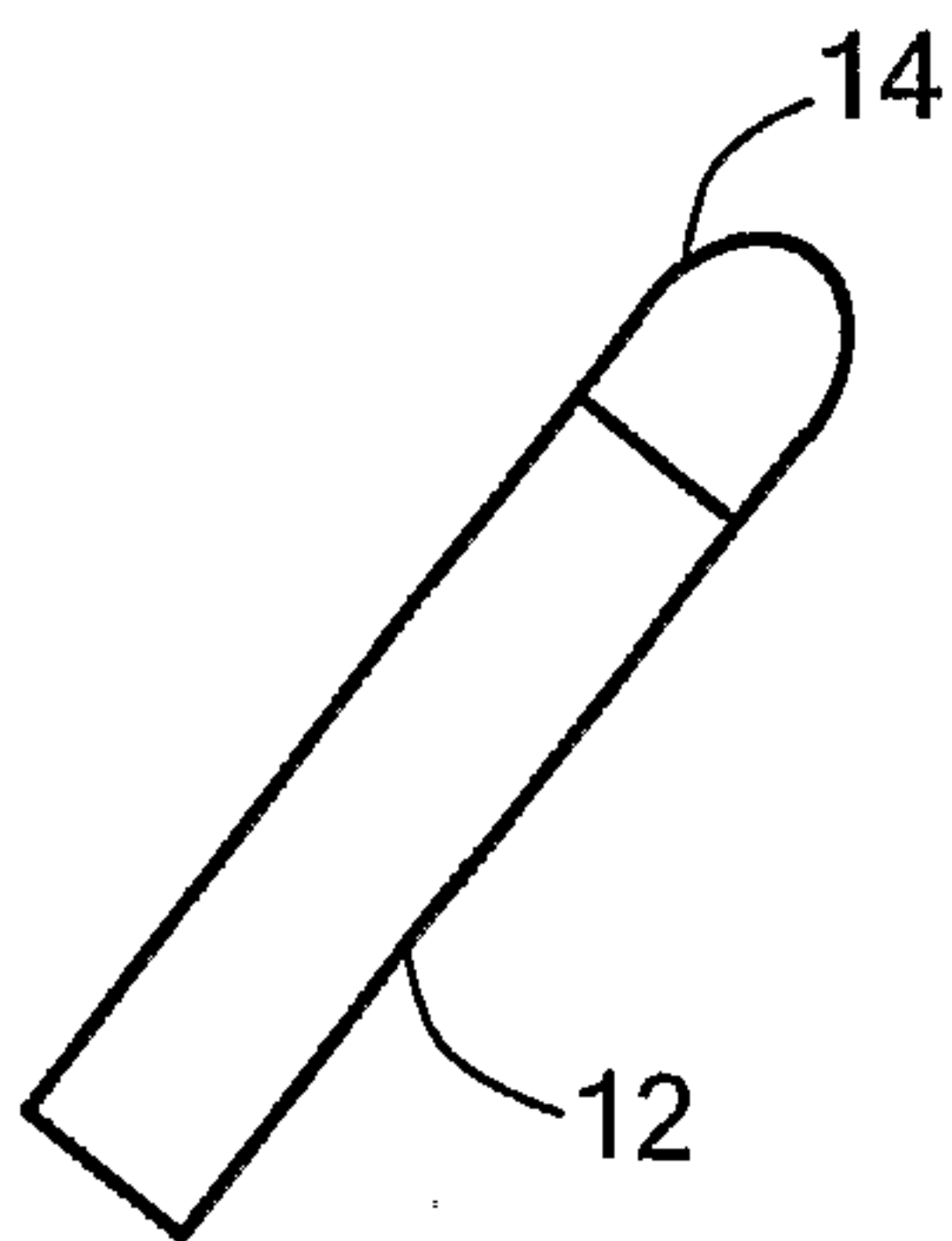
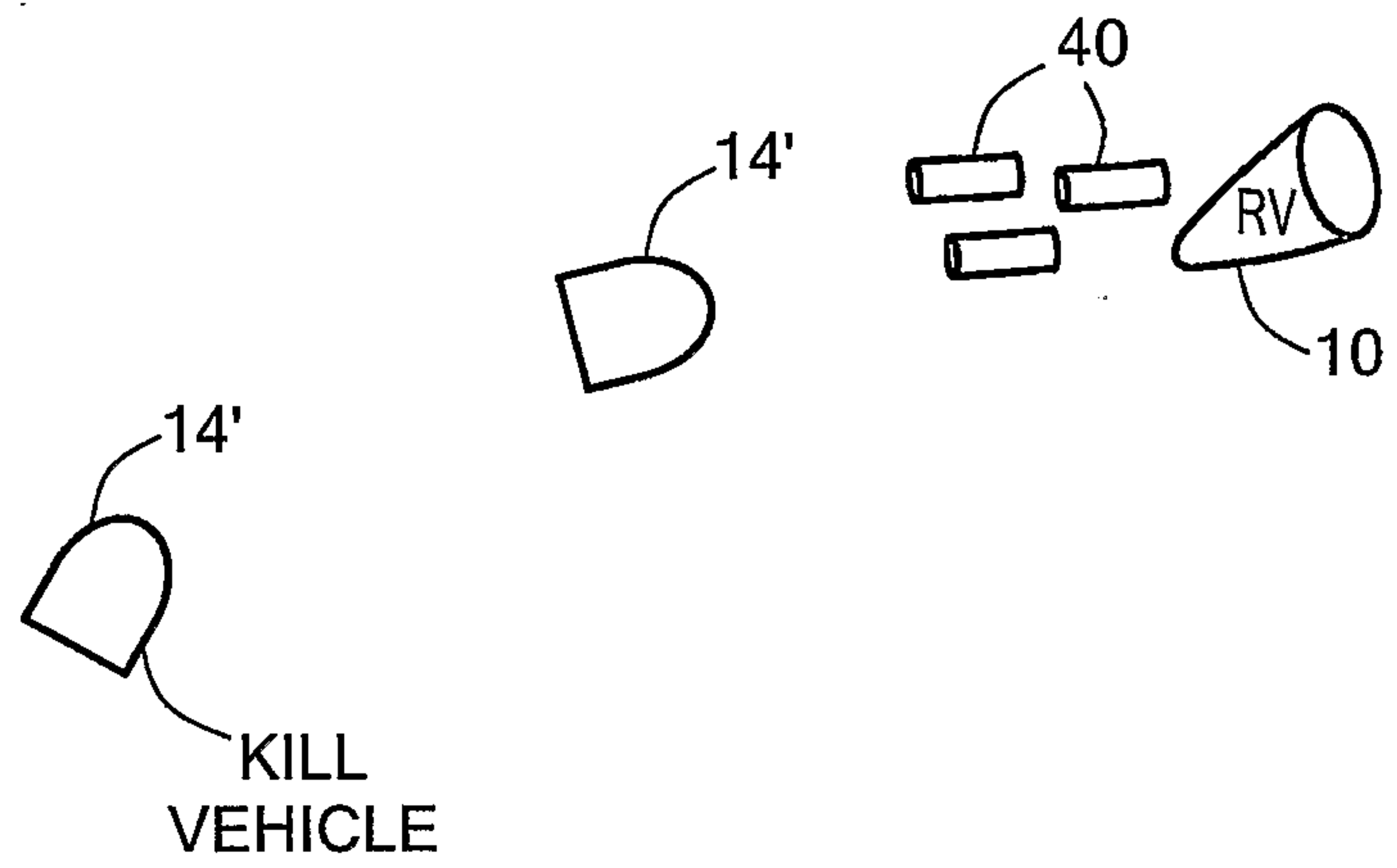


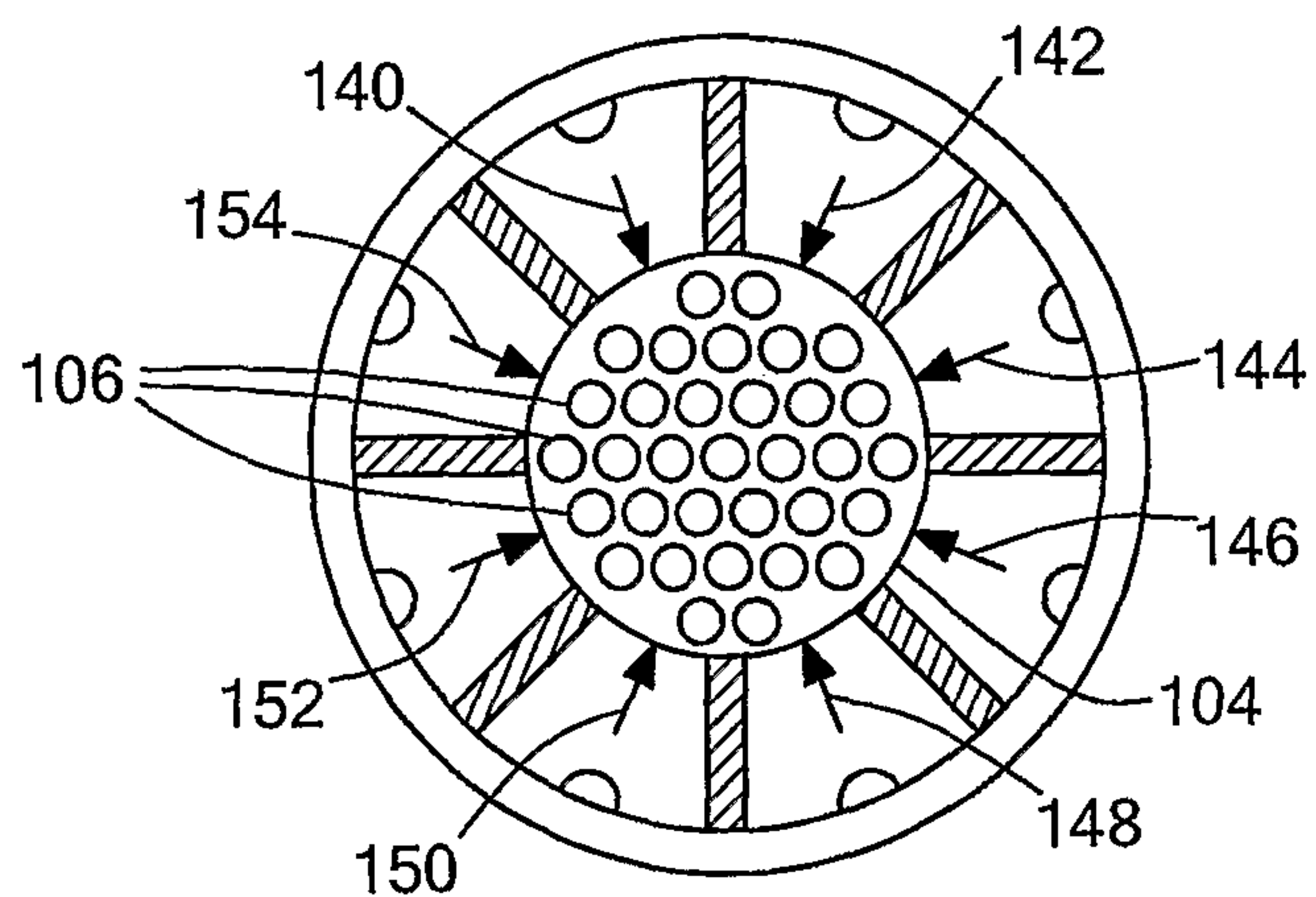
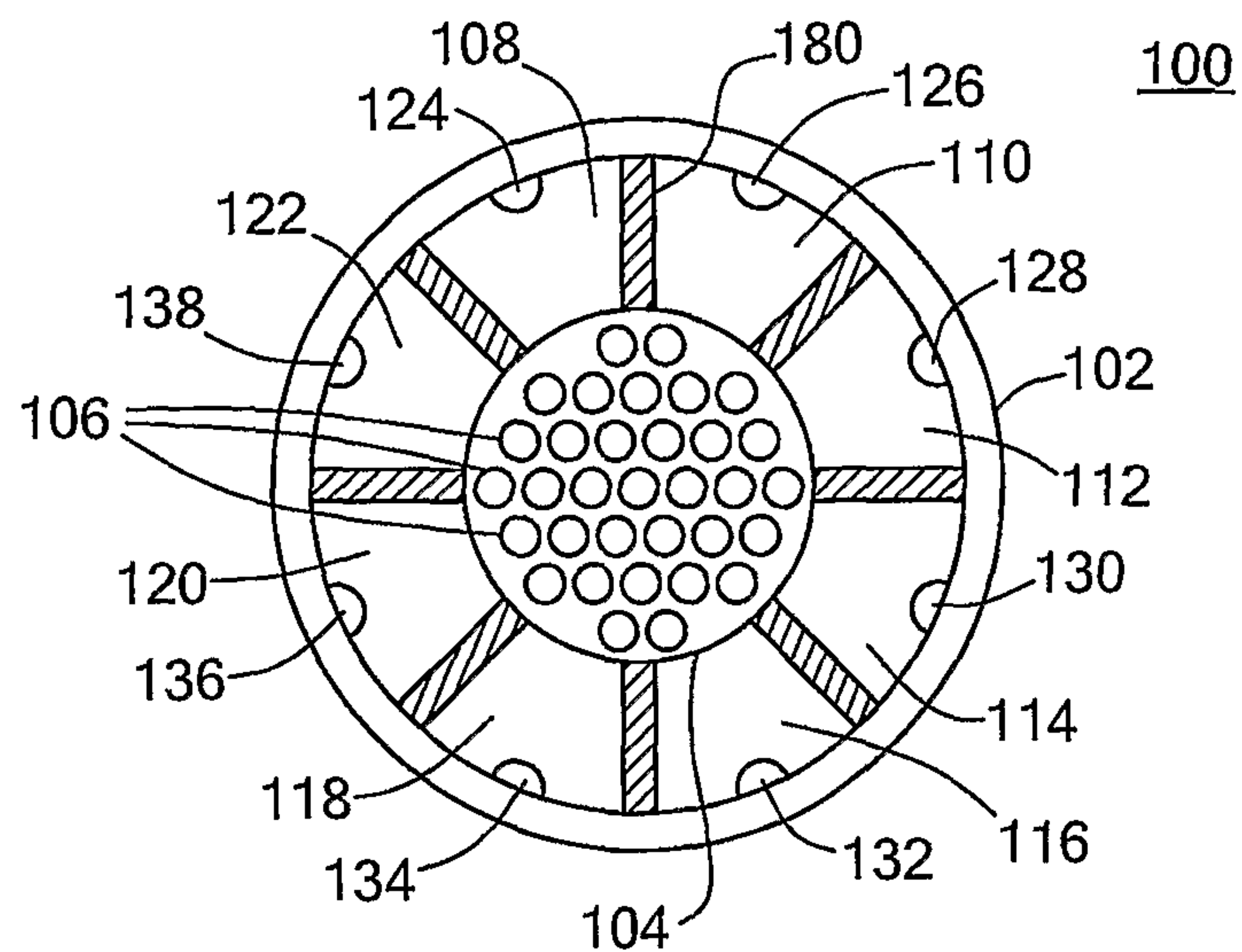
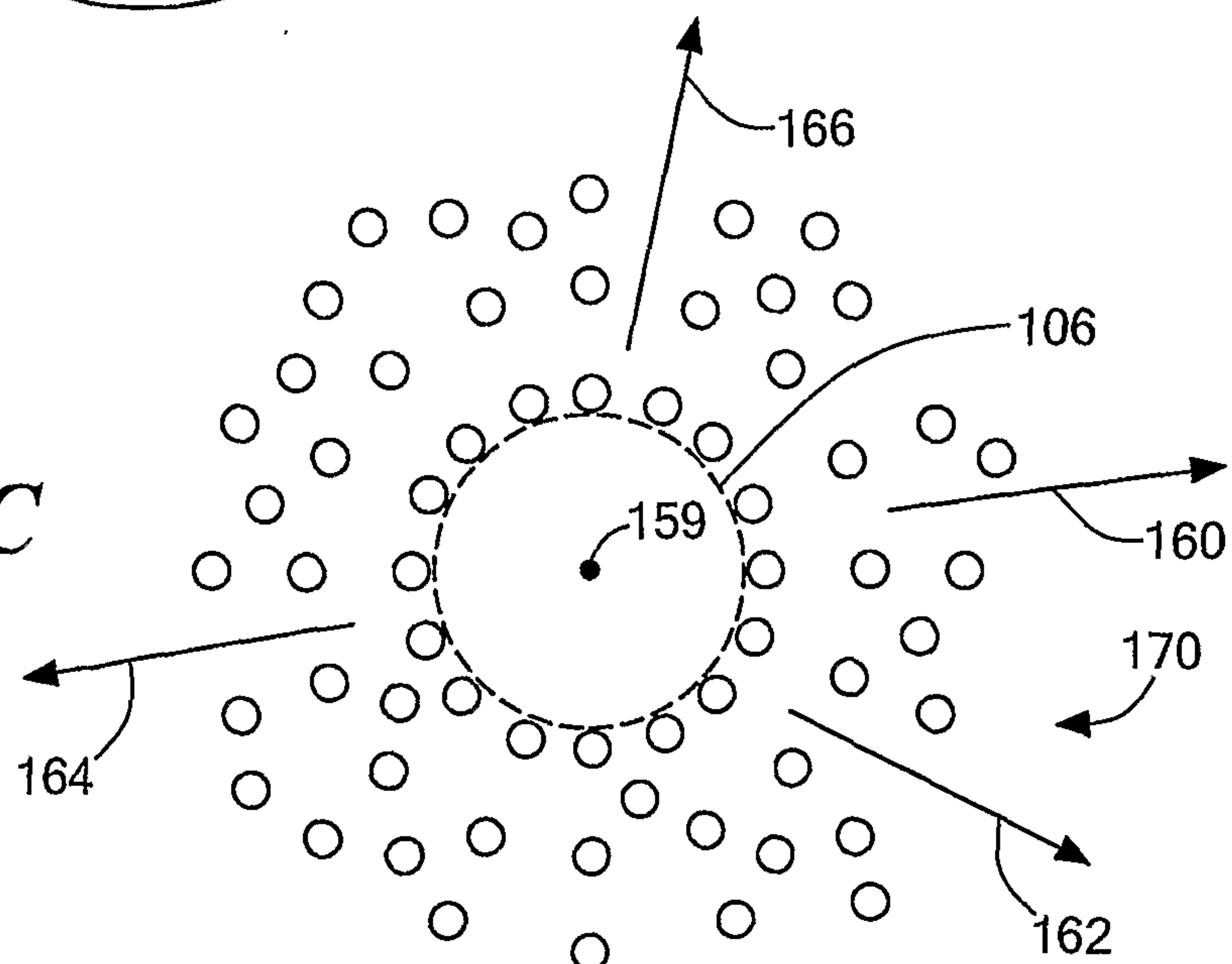
FIG. 2

PRIOR ART

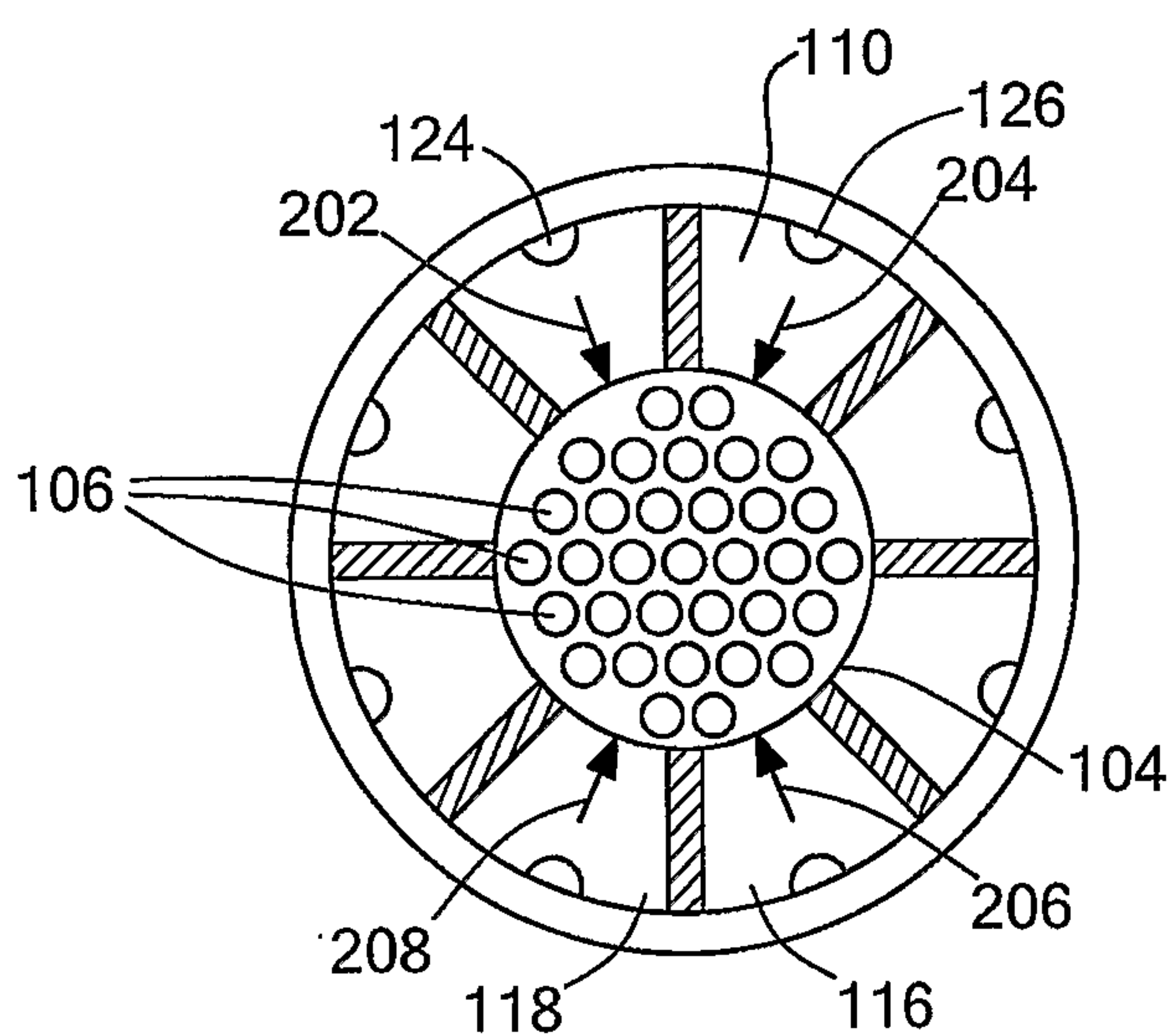
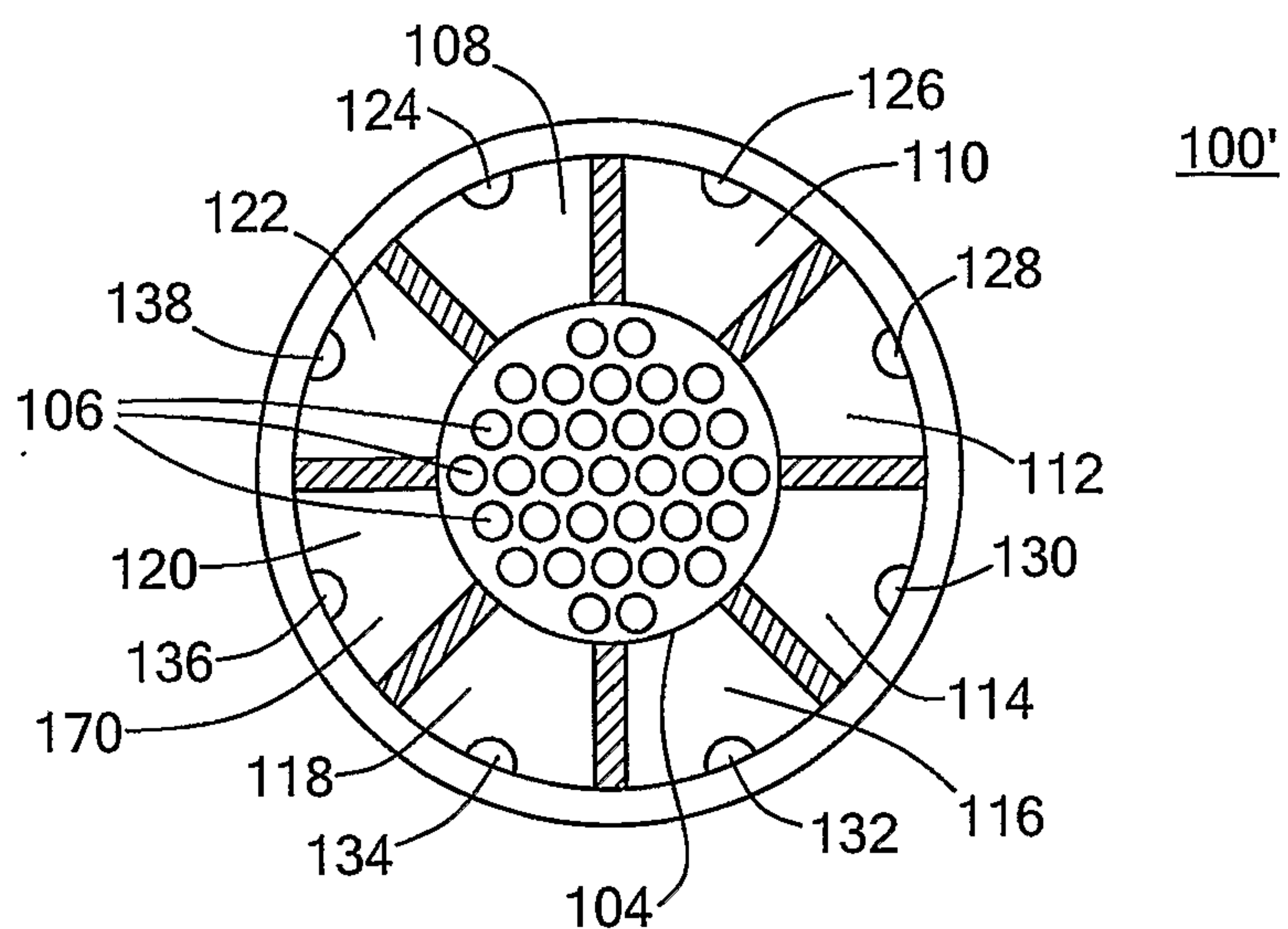
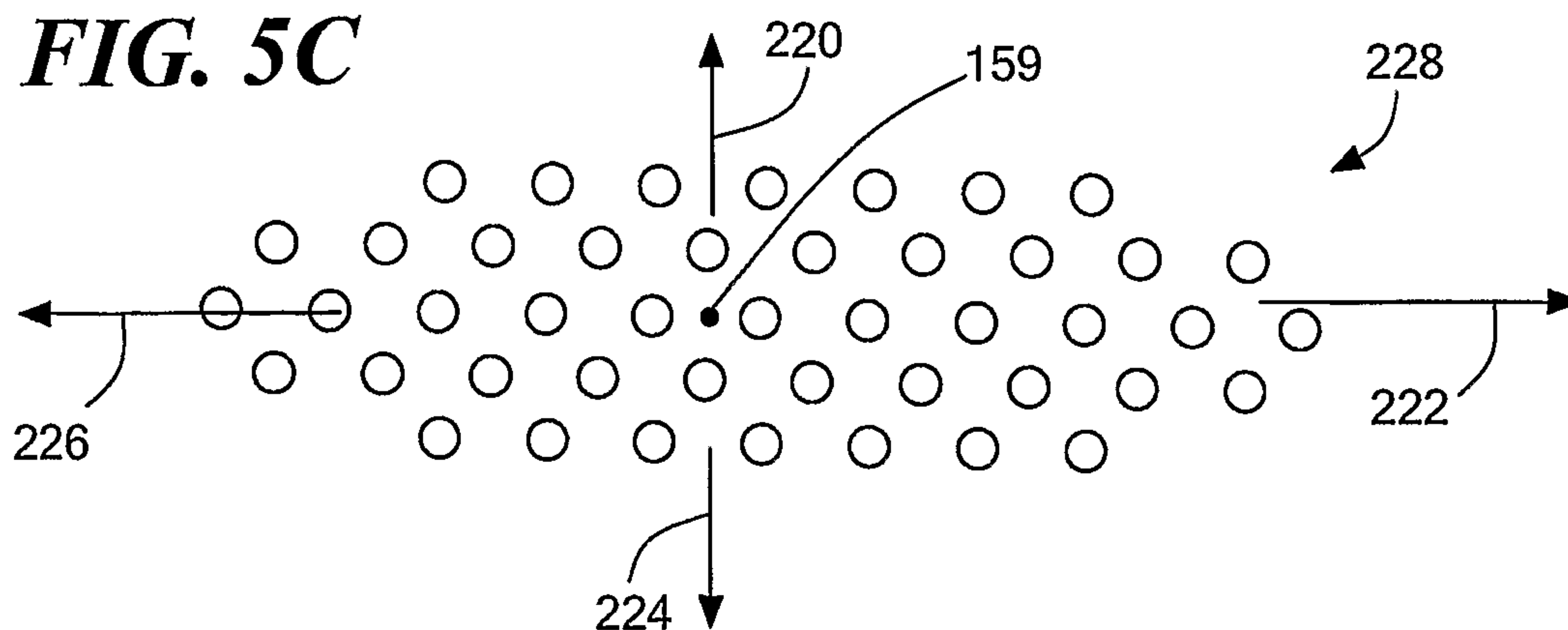
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**FIG. 3**

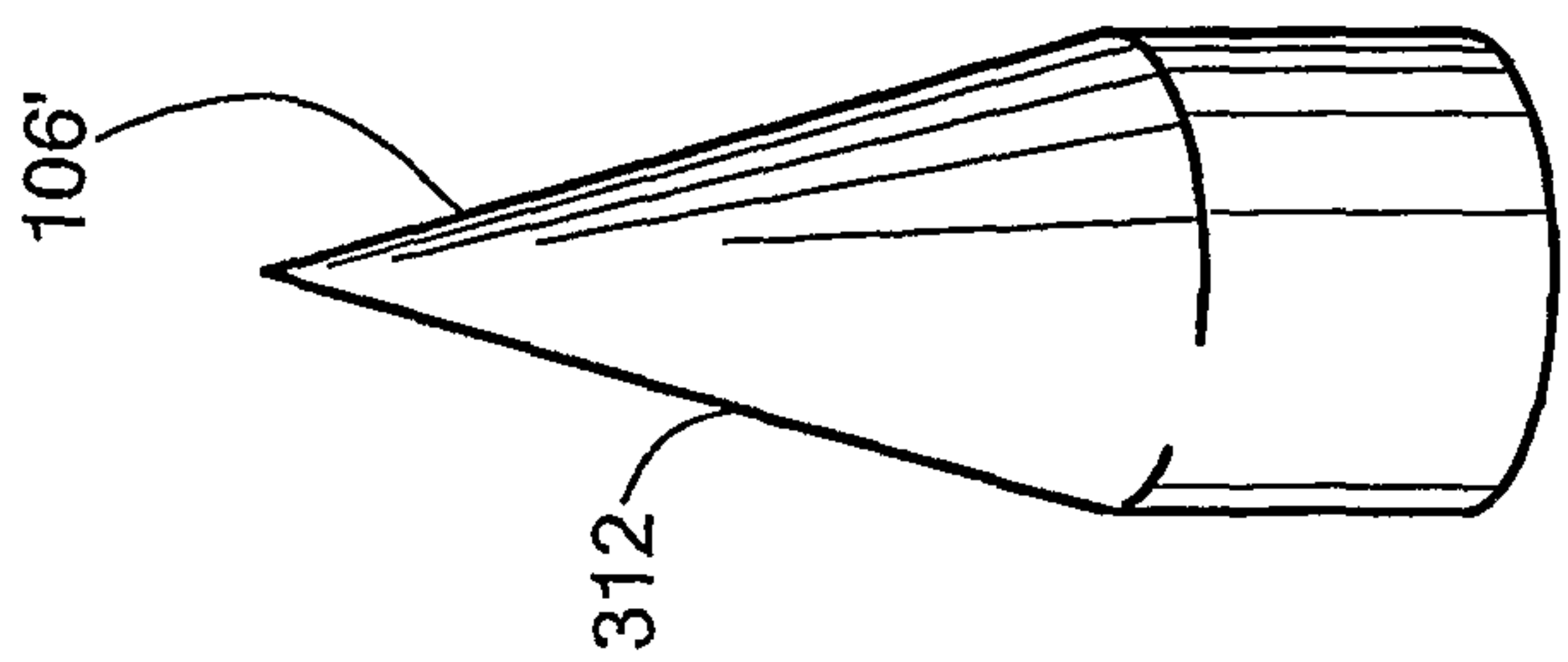
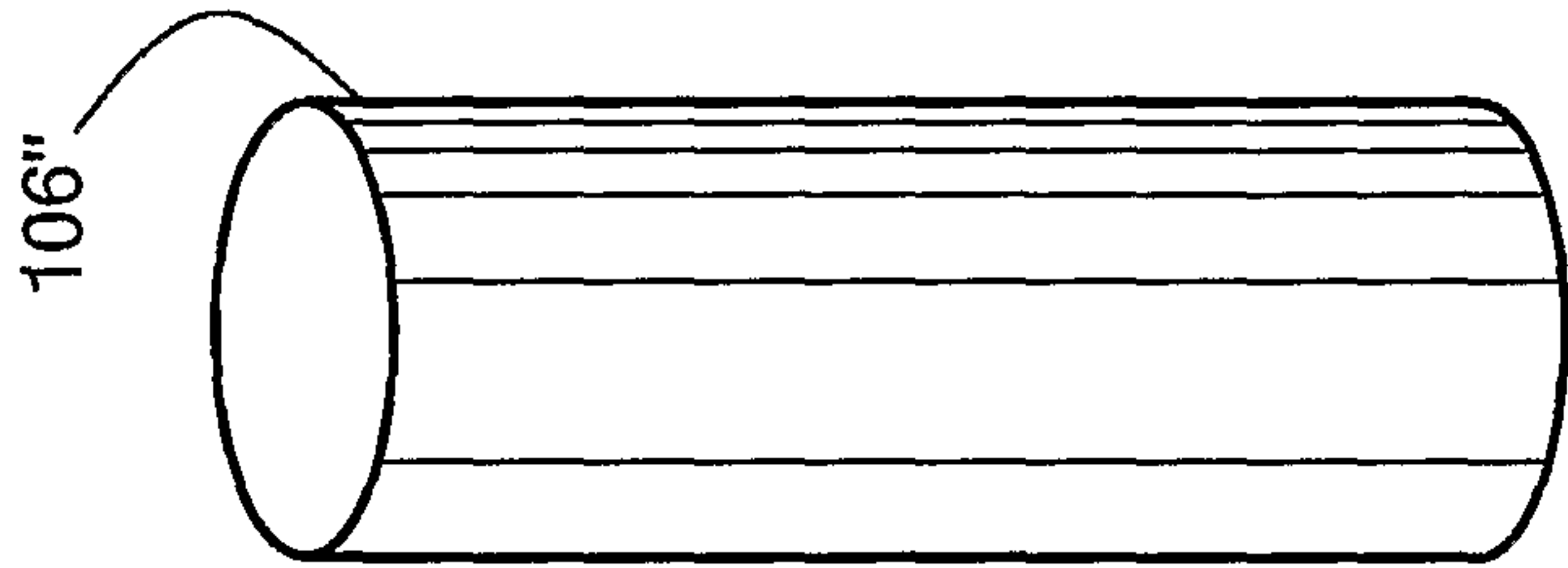
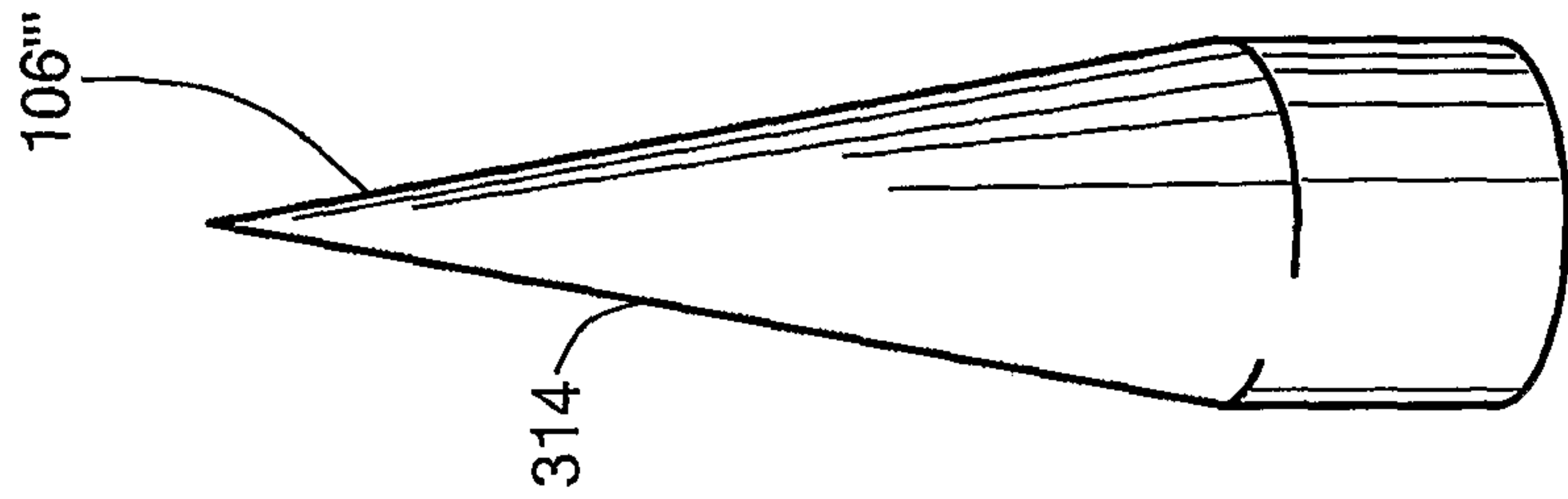
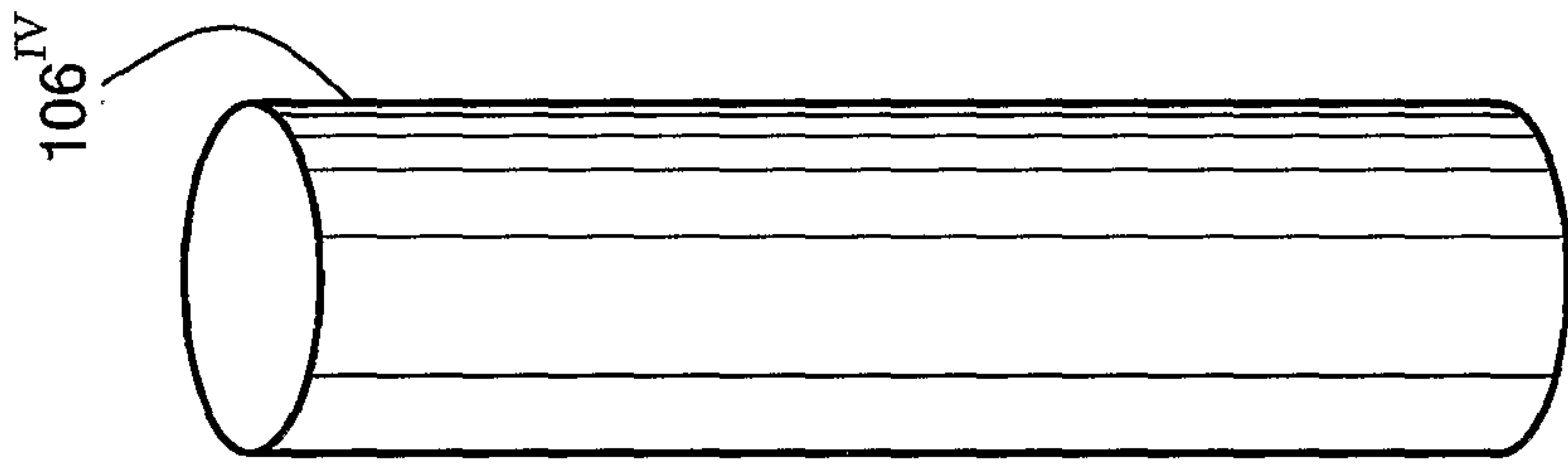
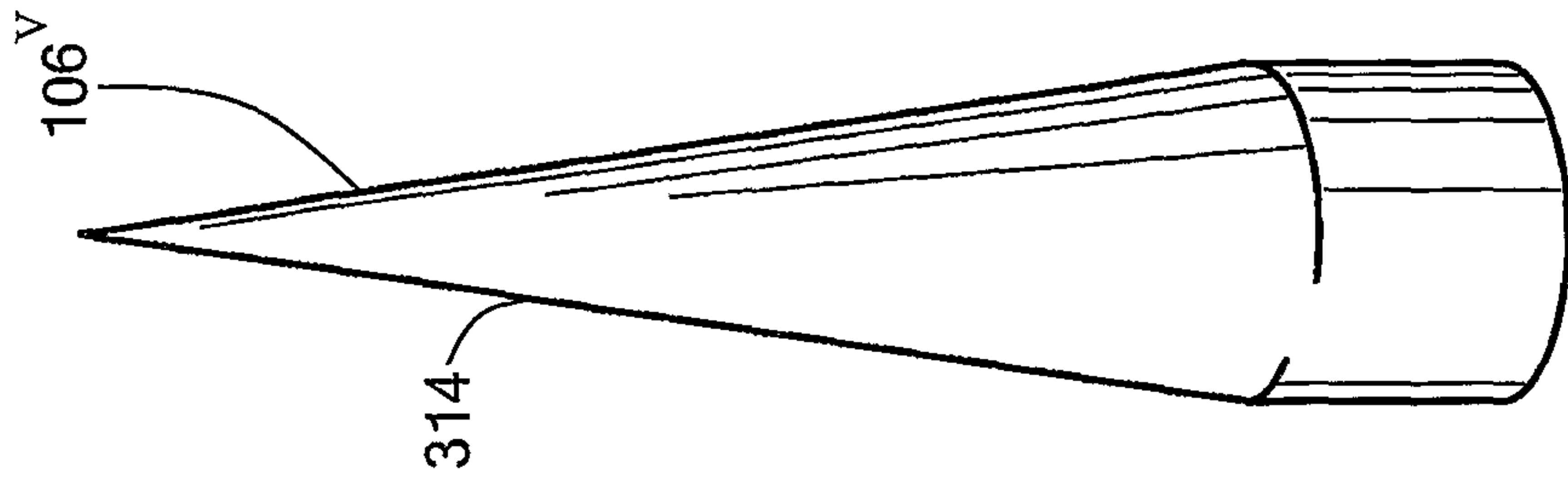
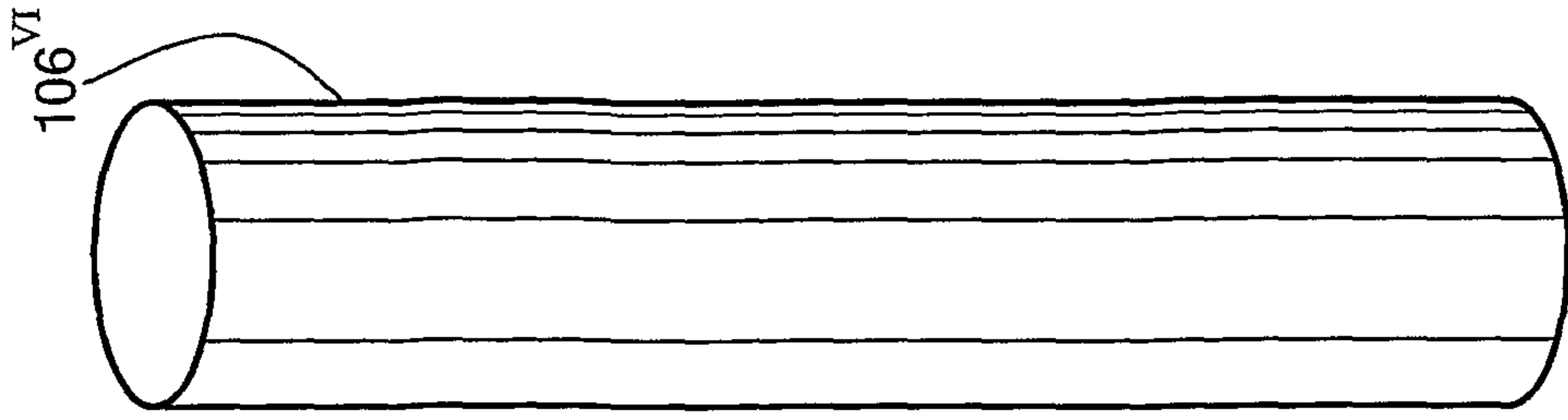
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FIG. 4A**FIG. 4B****FIG. 4C**

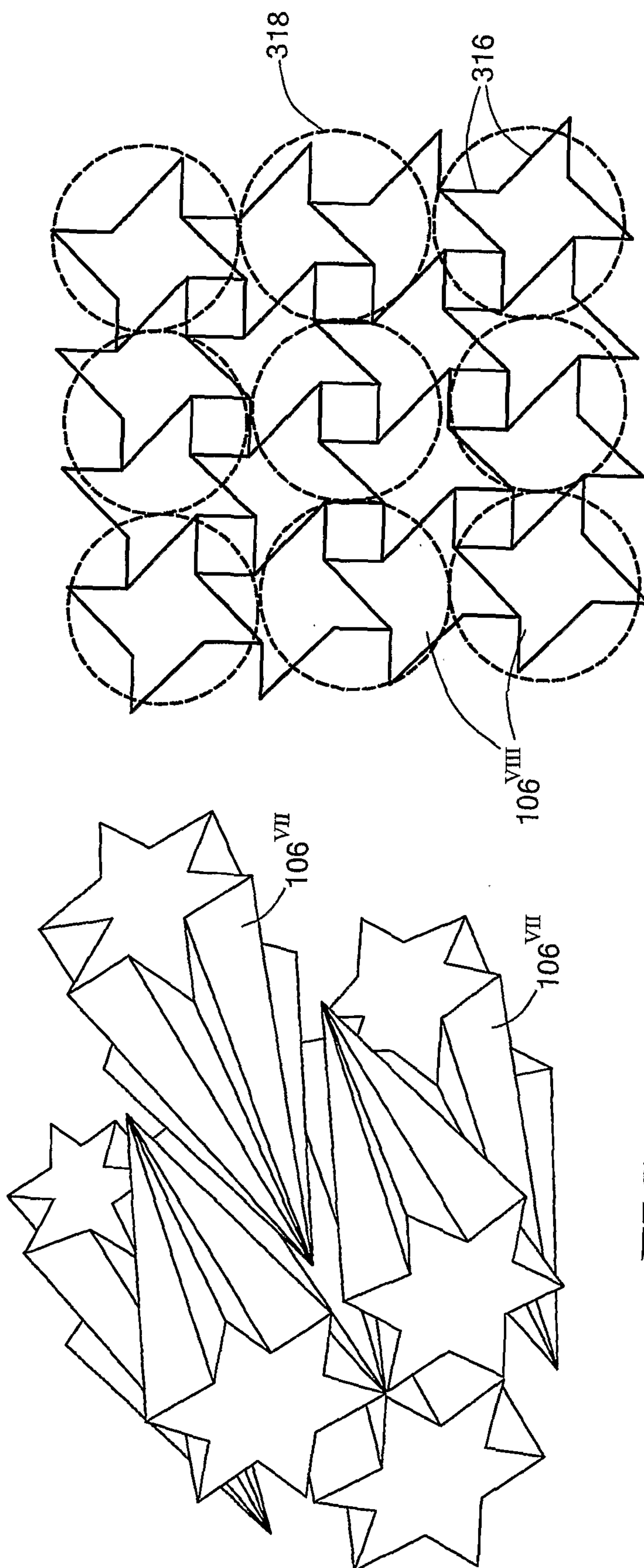
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FIG. 5A**FIG. 5B****FIG. 5C**

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**FIG. 6** **FIG. 7** **FIG. 8** **FIG. 9** **FIG. 10** **FIG. 11**

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**FIG. 13****FIG. 12**

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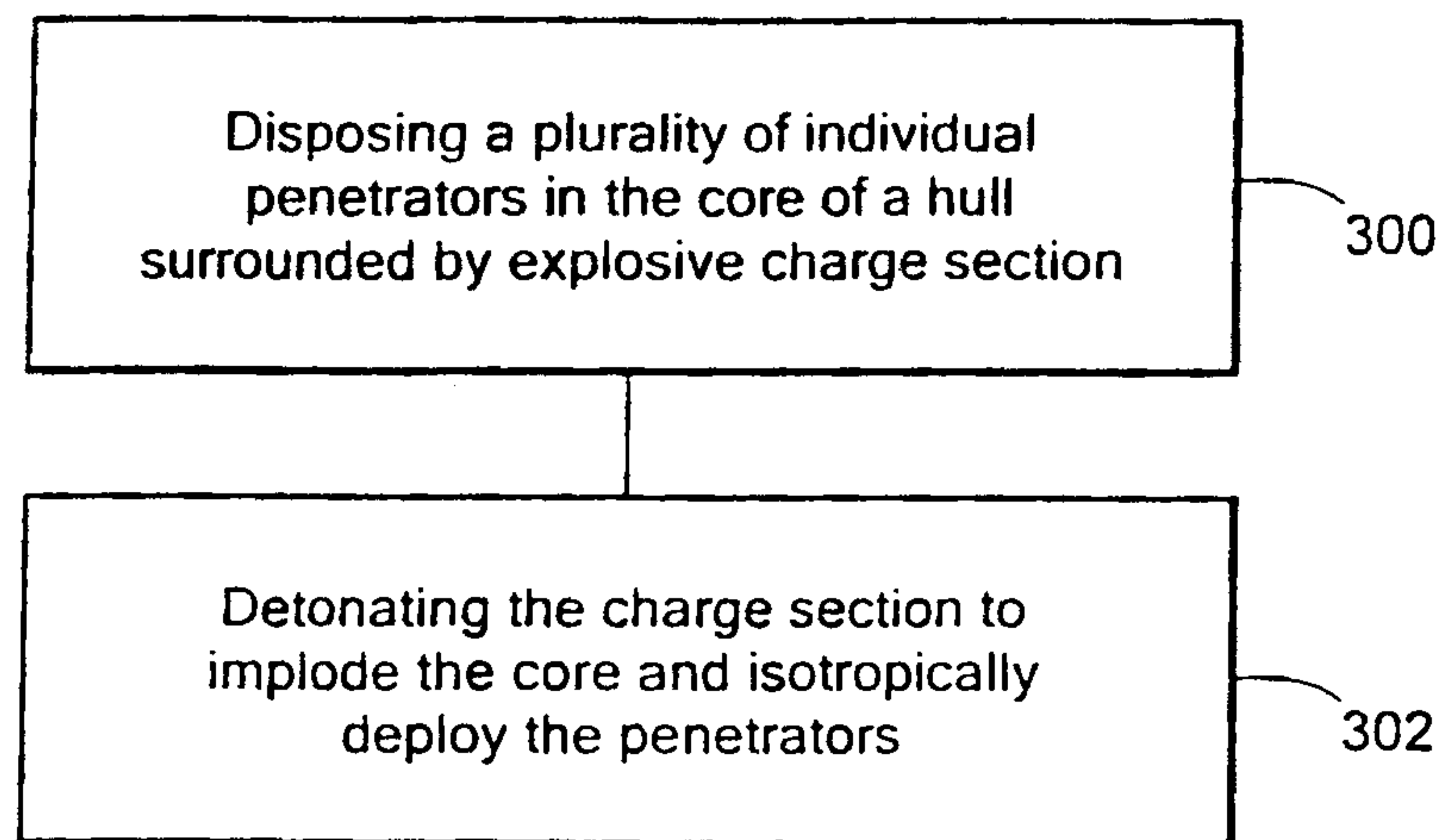


FIG. 14

